

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PORT O 01714 052116Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CG-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 CIAE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 /076 W
-----078583 052125Z /45

P 052103Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2518
INFO OSD/ISA/FMRA
COGARD/ONSOD WASHDC
COMNAVELEXSYSCOM WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 01714

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, TD
SUBJECT: OMEGA TRINIDAD

REFERENCE: PORT OF SPAIN 1194 AND PREVIOUS

1. PERMANENT SECRETARY IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, LENNOX BALLAH, PHONED ME AFTERNOON OF JUNE 2 ON "URGENT BASIS" TO SAY HE HAD BEEN INFORMED THAT HE COULD BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE USG ON OMEGA TRINIDAD. GOTT CHIEFS OF MISSION MEETING AND OTHER COMMITMENTS, HOWEVER, WOULD MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO MEET WITH ME FOR THIS PURPOSE BEFORE JUNE 15. I AGREED TO CALL HIM ON THAT DATE TO SET APPOINTMENT TO BEGIN THE DISCUSSIONS.

2. BALLAH SAID THAT OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO THE GOTT IN ANY NEW ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:
1) PROVISION FOR JOINT US-T&T MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL OF OMEGA TRINIDAD; 2) AN AGREED MECHANISM FOR SUSPENDING OMEGA OPERATIONS IN THE EVENT OF HOSTILITIES, SHOULD THE GOTT CONSIDER SUCH ACTION NECESSARY FOR THE COUNTRY'S PHYSICAL SECURITY; AND 3) THE NEW AGREEMENT WOULD EXPIRE
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IN DECEMBER, 1980. WHEN I POINTED OUT TO BALLAH THAT ALL OF THE ABOVE POINTS HAD BEEN COVERED IN THE DRAFT AGREEMENT WE PRESENTED LAST JULY AND OUR NOTE OF APRIL 10 (REFTEL), HE REPLIED THAT HE HAD THE FILE WITH BOTH THOSE DOCUMENTS BEFORE HIM BUT HAD NOT HAD THE OPPORTUNITY RECENTLY TO REVIEW IT THOROUGHLY.

3. COMMENT: THE TIMING OF BALLAH'S CALL WOULD SUGGEST THAT THIS DECISION EMANATED FROM THE CABINET MEETING TLXH DAY BEFORE, BUT WE ARE AT A LOSS TO EXPLAIN WHAT LIES BEHIND THIS LATEST TRINIDADIAN SHIFT IN COURSE. FOR WHATEVER THE REASONS, BALLAH'S DEMARCHE APPEARS TO INDICATE THAT THE GOTT AT LAST IS PREPARED TO ENTER INTO DISCUSSIONS WITH US ON OMEGA. WHILE HE MADE NO MENTION OF THE HISTORICAL SUMMARY ON OMEGA, WE SHOULD HAVE IT IN HAND HERE BEFORE JUNE 15 SO THAT IT IS AVAILABLE FOR WHATEVER USE WE MAY NEED TO MAKE OF IT. FOX

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, OMEGA STATION, NEGOTIATIONS, TRACKING STATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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